

Woman, commend me to her, I will not faile her.

*Qui.* Why, you say well: But I haue another messenger to your worship: Mistresse Page hath her heartie commendations to you to: and let mee tell you in your eare, shee's as fatuous a quill modest wife, and one (I tell you) that will not misse you morning nor evening prayer, as any is in *Windsor*, who ere bee the other: and shee bade me tell your worship, that her husband is seldom from home, but she hopes there will come a time. I neuer knew a woman so doate vpon a man; surely I thinke you haue charmes, la: yes in truth.

*Fal.* Not I, I assure thee; letting the attraction of my good parts aside, I haue no other charmes.

*Qui.* Blessing on your heart for't.

*Fal.* But I pray thee tell me this: has *Ford's* wife, and *Pages* wife acquainted each other, how they loue me?

*Qui.* That were a iest indeed: they haue not so little grace I hope, that were a trickie indeed: But Mistresse *Page* would desire you to fend her your little Page of all loues: her husband has a maruellous infection to the little Page: and truly Master *Page* is an honest man: neuer a wife in *Windsor* leads a better life then shee do's: doe what shee will, say what shee will, take all, pay all, goe to bed when shee list, rise when shee list, all is as shee will: and truly shee deserues it; for if there be a kinde woman in *Windsor*, she is one: you must fend her your Page, no remedie.

*Fal.* Why, I will.

*Qui.* Nay, but doe so then, and looke you, hee may come and goe betweene you both: and in any case haue a nay-word, that you may know one anothers minde, and the Boy neuer neede to vnderstand any thing; for 'tis not good that children should know any wickednes: olde folkes you know, haue discretion, as they say, and know the world.

*Fal.* Farethee well, commend mee to them both: there's my purse, I am yet thy debter: Boy, goe along with this woman, this newes distracts me.

*Pist.* This Puncke is one of *Cupids* Carriers, Clap on more sailes, pursue: vp with your fights: Giue fire: she is my prize, or Ocean whelme them all.

*Fal.* Saist thou so (old *Jacks*) go thy waies: He make more of thy olde body then I haue done: will they yet looke after thee? wilt thou after the expence of so much money, be now a gainer? good Body, I thanke thee: let them say 'tis grossely done, so it bee fairly done, no matter.

*Bar.* Sir *Iohn*, there's one Master *Broome* below would faine speake with you, and be acquainted with you; and hath sent your worship a mornings draught of Sacke.

*Fal.* *Broome* is his name?

*Bar.* I Sir.

*Fal.* Call him in: such *Broomes* are welcome to mee, that ore-flowes such liquor: ah ha, Mistresse *Ford* and Mistresse *Page*, haue I encompass'd you? goe to, *via*.

*Ford.* Blessie you sir.

*Fal.* And you sir: would you speake with me?

*Ford.* I make bold, to presse, with so little preparation vpon you.

*Fal.* You'r welcome, what's your will? giue vs leaue Drawer.

*Ford.* Sir, I am a Gentleman that haue spent much, my name is *Broome*.

*Fal.* Good Master *Broome*, I desire more acquaintance of you.

*Ford.* Good Sir *Iohn*, I sue for yours: not to charge you, for I must let you vnderstand, I thinke my selfe in

better plight for a Lender, then you are: the which hath something emboldned me to this vnseason'd intrusion: for they say, if money goe before, all waies doe lye open.

*Fal.* Money is a good Souldier (Sir) and will on.

*Ford.* Troth, and I haue a bag of money heere troubles me: if you will helpe to beare it (Sir *Iohn*) take all, or halfe, for easing me of the carriage.

*Fal.* Sir, I know not how I may deserue to bee your Porter.

*Ford.* I will tell you sir, if you will giue mee the hearing.

*Fal.* Speake (good Master *Broome*) I shall be glad to be your Seruant.

*Ford.* Sir, I heare you are a Scholler: (I will be briefe with you) and you haue been a man long knowne to me, though I had neuer so good means as desire, to make my selfe acquainted with you. I shall discouer a thing to you, wherein I must very much lay open mine owne imperfection: but (good Sir *Iohn*) as you haue one eye vpon my follies, as you heare them vnfolded, turne another into the Register of your owne, that I may passe with a reproofe the easier, sith you your selfe know how easie it is to be such an offender.

*Fal.* Very well Sir, proceed.

*Ford.* There is a Gentlewoman in this Towne, her husbands name is *Ford*.

*Fal.* Well Sir.

*Ford.* I haue long lou'd her, and I protest to you, bestowed much on her: followed her with a doating obseruance: In gross'd opportunities to meete her: see'd euery slight occasion that could but nigardly giue mee sight of her: not only bought many presents to giue her, but haue giuen largely to many, to know what shee would haue giuen: briefly, I haue pursu'd her, as *Loue* hath pursu'd mee, which hath bene on the wing of all occasions: but whatsoever I haue merited, either in my minde, or in my meanes, mercede I am sure I haue receiued none, vnlesse Experience be a Jewell, that I haue purchased at an infinite rate, and that hath taught mee to say this,

*"Loue like a shadow flies, when substance Loue pursues,  
"Pursuing that that flies, and flying what pursues."*

*Fal.* Haue you receiued no promise of satisfaction at her hands?

*Ford.* Neuer.

*Fal.* Haue you importun'd her to such a purpose?

*Ford.* Neuer.

*Fal.* Of what qualitie was your loue then?

*Ford.* Like a fair house, built on another mans ground, so that I haue lost my edifice, by mistaking the place, where I erected it.

*Fal.* To what purpose haue you vnfolded this to me?

*Ford.* When I haue told you that, I haue told you all: Some say, that though she appeare honest to mee, yet in other places shee enlargeth her mirth so farre, that there is shrewd construction made of her. Now (Sir *Iohn*) here is the heart of my purpose: you are a gentleman of excellent breeding, admirable discourse, of great admittance, authenticke in your place and person, generally allow'd for your many war-like, court-like, and learned preparations.

*Fal.* O Sir.

*Ford.* Belceue it, for you know it: there is money, spend it, spend it, spend more; spend all I haue, onely giue

me so much of your time in exchange of it, as to lay an amiable siege to the honesty of this *Ford's* wife: vse your Art of wooing; win her to consent to you: if any man may, you may as soone as any.

*Fal.* Would it apply well to the vehemency of your affection that I should win what you would enioy? Methinks you prescribe to your selfe very preposterously.

*Ford.* O, vnderstand my drift: she dwells so securely on the excellency of her honor, that the folly of my soule dares not present it selfe: shee is too bright to be look'd against. Now, could I come to her with any detection in my hand; my desires had instance and argument to commend themselves, I could driue her then from the ward of her purity, her reputation, her marriage-vow, and a thousand other her defences, which now are too strongly embarraild against me: what say you too't, Sir *Iohn*?

*Fal.* Master *Broome*, I will first make bold with your money: next, giue mee your hand: and last, as I am a gentleman, you shall, if you will, enioy *Ford's* wife.

*Ford.* O good Sir.

*Fal.* I say you shall.

*Ford.* Want no money (Sir *Iohn*) you shall want none.

*Fal.* Want no Mistresse *Ford* (Master *Broome*) you shall want none: I shall be with her (I may tell you) by her owne appointment, euen as you came in to me, her assistant, or goe-betweene, parted from me: I say I shall be with her betweene ten and eleven: for at that time the jealous, rascally-knaue her husband will be forth: come you to me at night, you shall know how I speake.

*Ford.* I am blest in your acquaintance: do you know *Ford* Sir?

*Fal.* Hang him (poore Cuckoldly knaue) I know him not: yet I wrong him to call him poore: They say theiealous wittolly-knaue hath masses of money, for the which his wife seemes to me well-fauour'd: I will vse her as the key of the Cuckoldly-rogues Coffer, & ther's my haruest-home.

*Ford.* I would you knew *Ford*, sir, that you might auoid him, if you saw him.

*Fal.* Hang him, mechanicall-salt-butter rogue; I will stare him out of his wits: I will awe him with my cudgell: it shall hang like a Meteor ore the Cuckolds horns: Master *Broome*, thou shalt know, I will predominate ouer the pezzant, and thou shalt lye with his wife: Come to me soone at night: *Ford's* a knaue, and I will aggravate his stile: thou (Master *Broome*) shalt know him for knaue, and Cuckold. Come to me soone at night.

*Ford.* What a damnd Epicurian-Rascal is this? my heart is ready to cracke with impatience: who saies this is improuident iealousie? my wife hath sent to him, the howre is fixt, the match is made: would any man haue thought this? see the hell of having a false woman: my bed shall be abus'd, my Coffers ransack'd, my reputation gnawed at, and I shall not onely receiue this villanous wrong, but stand vnder the adoption of abominable termes, and by him that does mee this wrong: Termes, names: *Amatimon* sounds well; *Luister*, well; *Barbafon*, well: yet they are Diuels additions, the names of fiends: But Cuckold, Wittoll, Cuckold: the Diuell himselfe hath not such a name. *Page* is an Assie, a secure Assie; hee will trust his wife, hee will not be iealous: I will rather trust a Fleasie with my butter, Parson *Hugh* the *Wells* man with my Cheefe, an *Irish*-man with my Aqua-vita-bottle, or a Theefe to walke my ambling gelding, then my wife with her selfe. Then the plots, then the cunning

uates, then shee deuises: and hearts they may effect; they they will effect. Heauen be cleuen o' clocke the howre, my wife, hee reueng'd on *Fal* will about it, better three ho nute too late: sic, sic, sic: Cu

## Scene T

Enter *Caum*, *Rugby*, *Page*, *Caum*, *Jacks* *Rugby*.

*Rug.* Sir.

*Caum.* Vat is the clocke, *Rug*. 'Tis past the howre to meet.

*Cai.* By gar, he has saue his hee has pray his Pible well, d (lack *Rugby*) he is dead already.

*Rug.* Hee is dead Sir: hee kill him if he came.

*Cai.* By gar, de herring is him: take your Rapier, (lack kill him.

*Rug.* Alas sir, I cannot fene.

*Cai.* Villanie, take your Ra.

*Rug.* Forbeare: hee's com

*Host.* Blessie thee, bully-D

*Shal.* 'Saue you Mr. Docto

*Page.* Now good Mr. Docto

*Shen.* 'Giue you good-mo

*Caum.* Vat be all you one,

*Host.* To see thee fight, to trauferte, to see thee heere, ro

passe thy puncke, thy flock, th

montant: Is he dead, my Ethio

cisco? ha Bully? what saies my

heart of Elder? ha? is he dead

*Cai.* By gar, he is de Cowa

he is not show his face.

*Host.* Thou art a Castellan

Greece (my Boy)

*Cai.* I pray you beare wit

fixe or seuen, two tree howe

come.

*Shal.* He is the wiser man,

foules, and you a curer of bodi

goe against the haire of your p

Master *Page*?

*Page.* Master *Shallow*; ye

great fighter, though now a m

*Shal.* Body-kins M. *Page*

of the peace; if I see a swor

make one: though wee are Iu

Church-men (M. *Page*) wee h

in vs, we are the sons of wom

*Page.* 'Tis true, M. *Shallow*

*Shal.* It will be found so, (M

I am come to fetch you home

you haue shew'd your selfe a

*Hugh* hath showne himselfe a

man: you must goe with me,